

Welcome to the Monthly Provider Call.



**The meeting will
begin at 12:00 pm.**

Meeting Agenda

- Tonya Williams – Announcement
– LEARNS
- Paul Lazenby – Step Up to Wage\$ Update
- Dawn Jeffrey – Updating ELS and OEC
Website
- Brandy Ishmon – Infant/Toddler Contracts
– New SRA System
- Lori Bridges – CLASS Pilot Update
- Jennifer Douglas – Local Leads Update

Announcement



Arkansas Department of Education

Division of Elementary and Secondary Education

Jacob Oliva, Secretary

December 2, 2024

CONTACT: Kimberly Mundell

PHONE: (501) 683-4788

kimberly.mundell@ade.arkansas.gov

ADE Launches Transportation Modernization Grant Program

LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to launch the \$5 million Transportation Modernization Grant Program. Created through the LEARNS Act, the program focuses on innovative approaches to transportation for students who attend public schools, open-enrollment charter schools, and licensed child care centers serving publicly-funded students.

"Like every parent, I know the challenge of getting your kids out the door and to school on time," Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders said. "Through Arkansas LEARNS, we established this new grant program to help schools meet parents where they are and provide efficient transportation to families across the state."

"Traditional routes for school buses and established bus stops can sometimes be underutilized and inefficient," ADE Secretary Jacob Oliva said. "Modernizing the way students get to and from school is long overdue, and this grant will recognize efforts to reimagine transportation."

The application cycle opens today and closes on January 31, 2025. At least 25 percent of the grants will be awarded to support rural and remote public school districts. The following entities are eligible to apply:

- Public school districts,
- Open-enrollment public charter schools,
- Early childhood care and education programs or their local early childhood coordinators,
- Cities,
- Towns,
- Counties,
- Education service cooperatives, and
- Non-profit organizations.

A committee will score applications based on student safety, cost effectiveness, innovation, and the need and demand.

More information will be
shared during January 7th call



ADE Launches Transportation
Modernization Grant Program

ADE Point of Contact:

Tim Cain, Director of Facilities & Transportation

tim.cain@ade.arkansas.gov

501-682-4261

https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Files/transportation_modernization_grant2_COMM.pdf

LEARNS in Early Childhood

LEARNS envisions a seamless early childhood system in Arkansas that ensures:

All children enter kindergarten ready to learn and prepared for lifelong success as a result of their experiences in high-quality early care and education.

Families can access the resources their child needs on their pathway to kindergarten, regardless of the setting they choose for their child.

Providers deliver high-quality early learning experiences, through a workforce that is prepared to care for and educate young children.

There are **enough affordable, safe spots** for children, made accessible for families through state, local, and community leadership.

The **local and state economies** benefit from thriving families who are supported to hold jobs, raise children, and participate in their community.



Paul Lazenby

Step Up to Wage\$ Update

paul@arkansasearlychildhood.org



Dawn Jeffrey

Updating ELS and OEC Website

dawn.jeffrey@ade.arkansas.gov



Updates for ELS

1. Providers can now update their staff list and enter new staff.
2. Coming soon, alerts will be in your portal and an email about your staff and outdated background checks.
3. By the end of the year, Providers will be able to update vehicle transportation.



Items on the OEC Website

Guide to create an INA account.

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-early-childhood/electronic-background-check>

Step by step guide to apply for a child care license.

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-early-childhood/child-care-licensing>

The six critical areas.

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-early-childhood/child-care-licensing>



Items on the OEC Website

Charts for Openings and Closing

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-early-childhood/child-care-licensing>

Charts for Violations

<https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/office-of-early-childhood/child-care-licensing>

***New email address for all
questions:***

CCL.Questions@ade.arkansas.gov



Brandy Ishmon

brandy.ishmon@ade.arkansas.gov



Infant/Toddler Contracts

This announcement will
be made by the end of the month.



New School Readiness System (SRA)



Announcement!

School Readiness Assistance | SRA Portal "Go-Live" on November 12, 2024

The ADE: Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is pleased to announce the release of School Readiness Assistance (SRA) Portal - Citizen Portal.

Phase - I Release: CITIZEN PORTAL

The SRA - Citizen Portal is scheduled to "Go-Live" on **Tuesday, November 12, 2024** at 08:00 A.M. CST. Upon Registration, Citizens (Families) will be required to establish their Profile first. Once the Profile is approved by the OEC staff, as part of Step 2: the Applications for School Readiness Assistance can be submitted digitally via the SRA - Citizen Portal.

Phase - II Release: PROVIDER PORTAL

The SRA - Provider Portal is scheduled to "Go-Live" on **Wednesday, December 04, 2024** at 08:00 A.M. CST.

Data Migration and Planned IT Outage: SRA PORTAL

The Kid Care to School Readiness Assistance data migration is scheduled for **December 01, 2024 through December 03, 2024**. This is an planned IT Outage reserved for migration, maintenance and code-base deployment tasks. The SRA Portal will be back up and running on December 04, 2024 at 08:00 A.M. CST.



Lori Bridges

CLASS Pilot Update

lori.bridges@ade.arkansas.gov



CLASS Pilot Learning Year

ADE launched the CLASS pilot this fall to measure and improve adult-child interactions that impact child outcomes.
Fall CLASS observations are well underway!

Since the CLASS data portal has been accessible to observers (Oct. 24th)

- 152 completed observations have been entered in the data portal

As of November 20, there are:

- 119 certified observers
- 27 infant
- 43 toddler
- 99 pre-K
- 48 total affiliate trainers [who can train other observers]

Classrooms to be observed			
Infant	Toddler	Pre-K	Total
71	92	434	597

Data from the fall CLASS observations will be available in January 2025.



CLASS Overview

Trained observers take detailed notes during observations, using the tool to score the quality of interactions they see. The tool offers consistent language and behaviors that can be observed and improved upon to increase the quality of the child experience.

[Observable interactions](#) are organized into specific domains for scoring and feedback. Those scores are then rolled up to provide actionable feedback for teachers and providers on where quality can be improved.

Expectations for the Classroom	PreK Domains	Toddler Domains	Infant Domains
<i>Warm, positive environment with trusting relationships responsive to the needs of children and enhancing children's abilities to interact with others</i>	Emotional Support	Emotional & Behavioral Support	Responsive Caregiving
<i>Daily routines are organized and disruptions are minimal to manage children's attention, time, and behavior</i>	Classroom Organization		
<i>Children are supported to learn new concepts, develop language, and connect ideas through classroom interactions and play</i>	Instructional Support	Engaged Support for Learning	



CLASS Resources



www.oecclass.org



OEC CLASS

Home

What is CLASS?

Implementation
Timeline

CLASS Pilot FAQ

Scheduled CLASS
Trainings

CLASS Observation
Protocols

✓ CLASS for Leaders

✓ CLASS for Teachers

✓ CLASS for Observers

CLASS Group Coaching

Local Lead Information

Teachstone

✓ Resources



Welcome to the Office of Early Childhood's
CLASS Website

**Registration for the LETRS EC
Spring 2025 Cohorts is now
open!**

[Register here!](#)

For more information, please contact us
at prekrise.support@ade.arkansas.gov.



Spring LETRS EC 2025 Registration

Prekrise.org

**SPRING 2025
LETRS®**

for Early Childhood Educators



**Welcome to Phase 2 of
the Pre-K RISE Initiative:
the LETRS EC Professional
Development Course.**

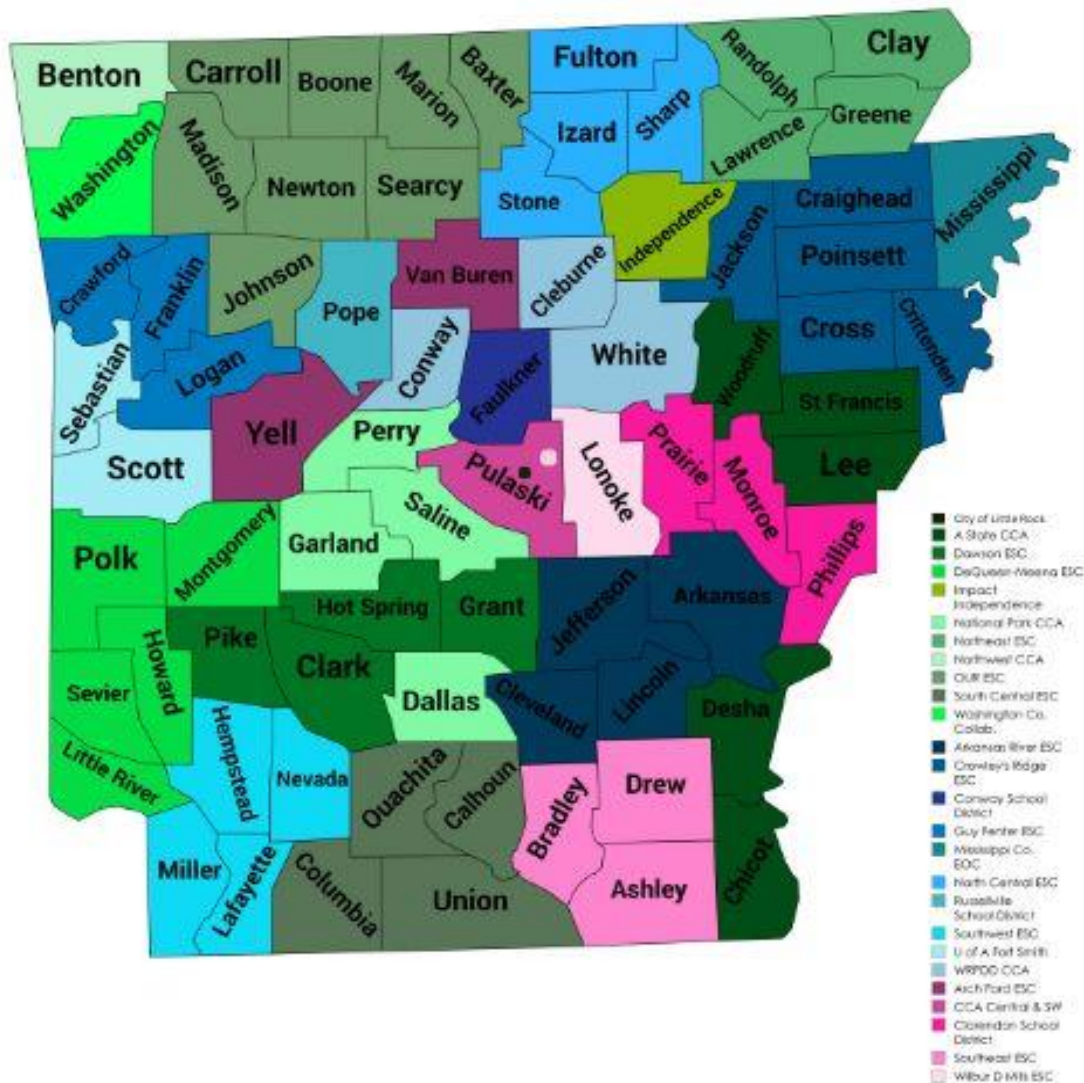


Jennifer Douglas

Local Leads Update

jennifer.douglas@ade.arkansas.gov

Statewide Local Leads



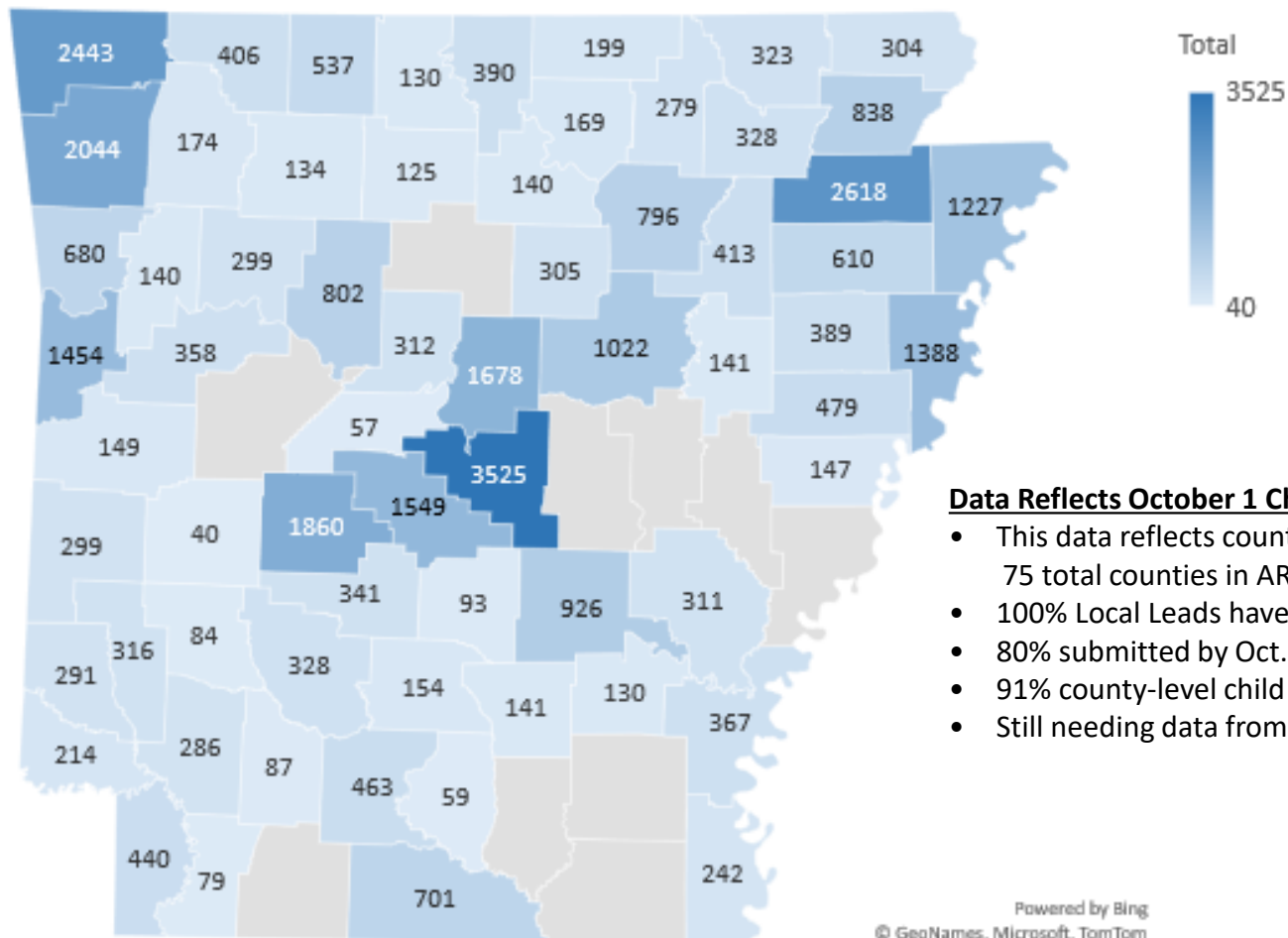
**26 Local Lead Organizations
Covering all
75 counties in Arkansas**

Cohort 3 Awards	
Organization	County
Clarendon School District	Monroe, Phillips, and Prairie
Arch Ford ESC	Yell & Van Buren
WDM ESC	Lonoke, and Pulaski (Jacksonville SD only)
South Central ESC (Expansion)	Columbia County
Southeast ESC	Bradley, Drew, and Ashley
CCA Central	Pulaski (minus City of LR & Jacksonville SD)



Child Count Data

Child count data provides real time information of children accessing publicly-funded spots by site and funding type, regardless of how the funding is administered. This information will help drive state and regional strategy.



Data Reflects October 1 Child Count for Cohort 1 & 2

- This data reflects counts for 65 counts, out of 75 total counties in AR
- 100% Local Leads have submitted child count
- 80% submitted by Oct. 31 deadline
- 91% county-level child counts are complete
- Still needing data from approximately 50 providers



NEXT MEETING

Next call is January 7 at 12:00pm

Find the recording of today's meeting here:

[Division of Elementary and Secondary Education - Offices - Early Childhood - Informational Provider Calls \(arkansas.gov\)](#)